

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action mailed August 12, 2004. Claims 1-16 have been pending in the present application. The Examiner rejected claims 1,4-7, 9 and 12-15; and objected to claims 2, 3, 8, 10, 11 and 16. The Applicants amended claims 1, 3, 9 and 11; and canceled claims 2 and 10 to clearly define the invention of the subject application and aiming to overcome the rejections and objections of the Examiner. Reconsideration of rejections and objections is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) requesting the every feature of the invention specified in the claims should be shown in the drawings. The Applicants recited in the claims 7 and 15 “counterweight assembly comprises at least two counterweights”, however only one counterweight 76 has been shown in Fig.1. The Applicants amended Fig. 1, showing the second counterweight that was labeled 77. The “Replacement Sheet” is submitted herewith.

The Specification

The specification has been amended to confirm it with the drawing and the claims by inserting the labeling of the second counterweight, which was mentioned in the specification and cited in the claim as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-6, 9 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sekiya et al (the US patent No. 5,336,068). The Applicants amended independent claim 1 by introducing limitations of claim 2, which was canceled without prejudice. Introducing limitations of claim 10, which was canceled without prejudice, the Applicants also amended independent claim 9. The Applicants respectfully request to withdraw the rejection of independent claims 1 and 9 and respectively dependent thereon claims 4-6 and 12-14.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute Fig. 1 with the corrected Fig. 1 submitted herewith and labeled as a
“Replacement Sheet” in the page header:

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sekiya et al, combining the teaching of the Sekiya et al patent and the knowledge of the person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. Claim 7 depends on claim 1, which has been amended and claim 15 depends on claim 9, which has been amended as well. It is believed that both claims 7 and 15 are patentable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement that Claims 2, 3, 8, 10, 11 and 16 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment the Applicants rewrote independent claims 1 and 9 by including limitations of allowable claims 2 and 10. After amendment, claims 3 and 8 are dependent on a rewritten claim 1 and claims 11 and 16 are dependent on a rewritten claim 9.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submits that the amended claims and claims dependent thereon are patentable over cited reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a) and respectfully request that the rejection to these claims is withdrawn. It is believed that in light of the above amendments and remarks the present application in a proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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